whether the Government exists or does not exist . The Question Hour relates to the existence of tbe Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Govern ment exists. This rs not the time to raise it. *(Interruptions)* You raise it at any hour — during Zero Hour, at the time of Special Mentions or at any time. *(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Who will answer the questions? They have no right to answer the questions. They have forfeited the confidence of the people. The Prime Minister does not enjoy the confidence of his own party. *(Interruptions)* The party has been completely routed. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a report, a persistent report, that the Congress Working Committee had refused to pass a Resolution . There is a rumour going on. There is a rumour that the Prime Minister has resigned. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-3HAJIRAO SHINDE : Sir, it is an internal matter of the party. It cannot be discussed here. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Parliament exists. The Government exists. f herefore, the Business of the House should be done. The Business of the Parliament should be carried on. *(Interruptions)*

SHRl V. NARAYANASAMY. The B. J. P. was routed in Andhra Pradesh. *(Interruptions)* The B.J.P. was routed in Madhya Pradesh. It was roiibd in Uttar Pradesh. *(Interruptions)*

SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Sir, mv submission is that the first question has already been taken up. The time of the Question Hour should not be consumed like this. This is a very important part of the Business of the House, You had already called Mr. Sunder Singh Bhandari *{Interruptions)*

प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : प्राइम मिनिस्टर को इस्तीफा देना चाहिए... (**व्यवधान**)

कु० सरोज खापर्डे : हार और जीत तो राजनीति में चलती रहती है, ऐसी क्या बात है... (**व्यवधान**) आप सरकार बनाने का वादा करके भी सरकार नहीं बना पाते हो। शर्म करो... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री अजीत जोगी : आपके सीनियर मेम्बर क्वेश्चन पूछ रहे हैं, सुन लीजिए... (**व्यवधान**)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have expressed your view. Please sit down. I have called the Minister to answer the question. *(Interruptions)*

कोयला कम्पनियों को पेश आ रही कठिनाइयां

*61. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी** : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कोल इंडिया लि० और अन्य निजी कोयला कंपनियों ने किन-किन कारणों से विवश होकर विदेशी कंपनियों के साथ सहयोग करने की इच्छा व्यक्त की है

(ख) इन कठिनाइयों का देश के भीतर ही समाधान करने के लिए क्या प्रयास किए गए हैं और इस दिशा में अब तक कितनी सफलता प्राप्त हुई है ;

(ग) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान कितने कोयले का आयात किया गया; और

(घ) कोयला भंडारों को आग से बचाने के लिए कौन-कौन से नए उपाय किए गए हैं?

†श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी0 ए0 संगमा) : (क) से (घ) का विवरण-पत्र सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) कोयले के उत्पादन का तेजी से वृद्धि किए जाने के लिए तकनीकी-आर्थिक अपेक्षाओं की जैसे–बड़े आकार की ओपेनकास्ट खानों के आयोजन तथा डिजाइन तैयार करने के लिए निम्न कार्रवाई शुरू किए जाने की आवश्यकताओं को देखते हुए असम में बहुत खड़ी ढलवां सीमों के लिए विशेष खनन पद्धति शुरू किए जाने, यंत्रीकृत साफ्ट सिंकिंग विद्युत ओपेट लांगवाल खनन पद्धति तथा इन-सीट श्रेसिंग तथा कन्वेयिंग पद्धति की शुरूआत किए जाने के लिए कोल इंडिया लि0 के लिए विदेशी कंपनियों के साथ सहयोग किया जाना अपेक्षित हो गया। इसके अलावा, विदेशों, विदेशी कंपनियों से आसान शर्तों पर अतिरिक्त स्रोतों की उपलब्धता भी, ऐसे सहयोग किए जाने के मामले में एक घटक के रूप में रही हैं।

(ख) उपरोक्त क्षेत्रों में सहयोग किए जाने के कारण कोल इंडिया लि0 अब बहुत बड़े आकार की खानों के डिजाइन तथा आयोजना को अपने यहां (इन-हाउस) विकसित किए जाने की क्षमता रखती है। चौड़ी रूफ पद्धति की शुरूआत और पश्चिम ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स की ढलवां सीमों में शील्ड उत्खनन से कोल इंडिया लि0 को सुरक्षा की स्थिति में सुधार किए जाने में सहायता मिली है और कोल इंडिया लि0 इस पद्धति को स्वतंत्र रूप से चला रही है। को.इं.लि. ने यंत्रीकृत साफ्ट सिंकिंग के निष्पादन तथा डिजाइन तैयार करने के विषय में क्षमता हासिल कर ली है। पावर सपोर्ट लांगवाल उत्खनन के मामले में, यद्यपि परिणाम विभिन्न कारणों से एक समान नहीं रहे हैं, हाल ही में ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि0 की झांझरा तथा कोटाडीह जैसी खानों में उत्कृष्ट परिणाम प्राप्त किए गए हैं। इसी तरह से सेंट्रल कोलफील्ड्स लि0 में इन-पिट श्रेशिंग पद्धति की शुरूआत की गई है।

(ग) वर्तमान में कोयले का आयात ओ.जी.ए.एल. के अन्तर्गत आता है। किन्तु पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान आयातित की गई मात्रा (अधिकांशत: कोककर कोयले के मामले में) नीचे दर्शायी गई है :—

(मिलियन टन में)

1991–92	6.08
1992–93	6.71
1993–94	6.64

(घ) खानों में आग से निपटने के लिए अग्निशमन तकनीकें, जैसे–खुदाई, ब्लैंकेटिंग, हाइड्रोलिक रेतालेपिंग, निष्क्रिय गैसों के मिश्रण को प्रयोग में लाया जा रहा है। इसके अलावा केन्द्रीय खान आयोजन एवं डिजाइन संस्थान लि0, राष्ट्रीय रिमोट सेंसिंग अधिकरण (एन. आर.एसए.) के सहयोग से खान की आगों पर तापीय अध्ययन के लिए पद्धति को विकसित किए जाने हेतु एक परि-योजना शुरू की है, जोकि रिमोट-सेंसिंग तकनीक का प्रयोग करते हुए झरिया कोयला क्षेत्रों में शुरू की गई है। इसके अलावा, विश्व बैंक की सहायता से झरिया खान अग्नि नियंत्रण तकनीकी सहायता परियोजना के अन्तर्गत एक विस्तृत नैदानिक अध्ययन भी शुरू किया गया है।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : सभापति महोदय, यह प्रश्न कई बार उठा है... (व्यवधान) यह एक अलग बात है कि आज संबंधित मंत्री के बजाए उनके दूसरे सहयोगी ने उत्तर दिया है। लेकिन रिपोर्टस इस बात की है कि कोयले का उत्पादन बढ़ रहा है। बढ़ती हुई हालत में इसको बीच में रोकने की क्या जरूरत है—

†The Minister of State of the Ministry f labour Shri P. A, Sangma answer on ;hal the Minister » f state of the Ministry f Coa!

भिन्न भिन्न प्रकार के नये समझौते या विवशताएं थोपकर। किस आधार पर सरकार इस बात को तय करके बैठी है कि जितनी हमको जरुरत है कोयले की उतना हम पैदा नहीं कर पा रहे हैं, या जिस गति से हमको इसका उत्पादन करना चाहिए उस गति से हम इसका उत्पादन नहीं कर रहे हैं। इसलिए हमको फारेन कोलेबोरेशन की इसमें जरुरत पड़ रही है। क्या इसका एक-मात्र कारण यह है कि विदेशी कम्पनियों की तरफ से हमको साधन प्राप्त हो रहे हैं? यही एक-मात्र कारण है फारेन कोलेबोरेशन का या हमारे यहां पर कोई बुनियादी गलतियां, खामियां या कमियां रह गयी हैं जिनकी वजह से हम, जितना हमको कोयले की जरुरत है और 1996-97 तक के जो प्रोजेक्शन्स हैं, क्या हम उन्हें पूरा नहीं कर पाएंगे। अब इन सब बातों के होते हुए क्यों हम इस फारेन कोलेबो रेशन के मामले में आगे बढ़ रहे हैं यह मैं जानना चाहता हूं।

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, there is a need for improvement in both respects, i.e. the target of production wliich is required by the country as well as the pace, which the hon. Member has mentioned. The pace of production has also to be kept according to the needs of the country. The fact remains that when coal was nationalized in 1972-73, at that time the total production of coal in India was only 78 million metric tonnes. At that particular time, the USA was already producing 530 million tonnes, the then USSR was producing 511 million tonnes and China was producing 417 million tonnes. Our production at that time was only 78 million tonnes.

SHRI SUNDER SlNGH BHANDARI: was it so short ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Yes, it was. After the oil crisis, the Government thought that coal had to continue to be the major source of commercial energy in the country and there was need for stepping up coal production in the country to meet the requirements of power in the country. That is one of the reasons by coal was nationalized After nationalization India hid to go jn for foreign collaboration because we were at that time lacking in technology. Many other countries were ahead very much advanced in technology and we were stagnant in technology. Particularly at that point of time there wast no technology besasusa we were mining coal in very traditional methods even without applying technology. And, therefore, the need for foreign collaboration. And also, in terms of import of technology and in trerms of sophisticated equipment and also in terms of generating additional financial resources, it was felt necessary and therefore we have done that. Upgradation of technology is a continous process'. By the turn of the century we have to produce 400 million tonnes of coal from the present level of 250 million tonnes. Therefore, foreign collaborations "ill have to continue.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : श्रीमन्, आंकड़े तो हर बार बदलते जाते हैं 96-97 का तो 311 मिलियन टन का हो माने प्लानिंग में बताया है, अब आप इसको एकदम बढ़ाकर 400 के ऊपर ले जा रहे हैं: सवाल यह है कि हम अपनी आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार कोयला प्राप्त कर रहे हैं या नहीं? दूसरे देशों में जितना हो रहा है केवल इसी से कंपेयर करके हम फारेन कोलेबोरेशन की तरफ जा रहे हैं तो यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आई? लेकिन मैं दूसरे प्रश्न पर आता हूं और वह है, कोल माइन्स में आग लगने के मामले अर्थात् फायर इंसीडेंट्स, मैं यह चाहता हूं कि दो साल के कंपेरेटेव फिगर दिए जाएं 1992-93 और 1993-94 के और यह बताया जाए कि जब हमने ज्वाइंट वेंचिंग ग्रुप्स विभिन्न देशों के साथ आग के उपायों को काबू पाने के लिए स्थापित किए हैं उसके बावजूद ये घटनाएं क्यों बढ़ रही हैं? कहीं कमी रह गई है कि जिसकी वजह से आग लगने के कारण हमारे लोग भी इसमें मरते हैं और इतना कोयला भी नष्ट हो रहा है, इसके लिए सरकार कौन से ठोस कदम अब उठाना चाहती है ?

SHRT P. A. SANGMA: Sir, here also comes the question of technology. Our traditional method of controlling fires has not given us the desired results. As I have already mentioned in my main answer, so far we have been using the technology of digging, blanketing, hydraulic sand flushing and infusion of inert gases. These were the technologies we wen; using and we have not been able to get the desired results. Therefore, we thought that we must go in for a different type of technology. A team was sent to other countries, paticularly to the United States. Fortunately, at that particular moment the World Bank came to us and said that they would be in a position to assist us in the method of not only studying the position of underground fires in coal mines but also giving us solutions later on. Therefore, at the moment the feasibility survey as to the application of technology and the extent to which the problem exists is being done

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: I wanted comparative figures of fire incidence for 1992-93 and 1993-94. What are the figures of res in the different collieries?

SHRI P.A, SANGMA: Sir, unfortunately, I do not have that kind of figures at the moment. I have the figures for the Jharia coal mines where mostly the fire problem exists. I will supply to the hon. Member the complete picture as it exists in the whole country.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव : मान्यवर सभापति जी, मेरा मंत्री जी से इसी संबंध में प्रश्न यह होगा कि आज दैनिक "राष्ट्रीय सहारा' में एक एडीटोरियल छपा है जिसमें प्रधान मंत्री जी के एक बयान का हवाला दिया गया है । उसी विषय में वह एडीटोरियल है और उसमें कहा गया है (**व्यवधान**) मैंने तो प्रधान मंत्री जी का बयान नहीं देखा है, लेकिन उसमें लिखा है कि प्रधान मंत्री जी अब यह महसूस कर रहे हैं कि ज्यादा विदेशी कंपनियों को देश में आमंत्रण देने से देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था पर बुरा प्रभाव पड़ेगा । इसलिए में आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या प्रधान मंत्री की अपनी राय बदल गयी है और उस बदली हुई राय के अनुसार अब कोल कंपनियों में विदेशी कंपनियों का सहयोग आप नहीं लेंगे ?

SHRI PA. SANGMA: Sir, as far as the editorial to which the hon. Member has referred to is concerned, I have not read that editorial. Perhaps, the hon. Member is referring to a statement which is purported to have been made by the Prime Minister when he was addressing the Annual General Conference *of* the FICCI the other day. I have also read that.

On the question of foreign investment, on the question of entry of multinationals and on the question of joint ventures, the policy of the Government is very clear and we are very consistent on that. On the question of multinationals, the Government is selective. The policy *L* very clear. As far as th* question of foreign investment also is oncerned, it is also on a selective basis. Now coming specifically to coal, what we are today talking of, arising out of this question, is the question of foreign collaboration. We are not talking about joint ventures with foreign companies. The question of the Coal India entering into joint ventures with multinationals or any foreign country as of today does not exist. It u only to the limited extent of giving captive power plan. That had been discussed on the floor of this House when I came in my earlier tenure ior amend ment of the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act. But, as of today, the Coal India has not yet decided to go into the so-called joint ventures.

श्री मूलचंद डागा : सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि पिछले तीन वर्षों में कितनी बार कोयला खानों में आग लगी ? इन आगों से कितने जान-माल की हानि हुई और मेरे प्रश्न का भी

"ख" यह है कि आग से कोयला खानों को बचाने के लिए क्या-क्या उपाय किए गए हैं और इस पर कितना पैसा अब तक खर्च किया गया है, कृपया विवरण बताएं ?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: I must apologise for I do not have again the figures about the specific number of fires that have been in existence in the last three years. But, as far as the steps that are being taken to ultimately tackle the problem relating to underground fires in coalmines are concerned, I have already stated that we have to go in for a new technology. We are exploring that. Our team have gone to foreign countries. As of now, a feasibility study under the World Bank is going on. Hopefully, by the middle of next year, by June, the study will be over. Then only we will be able to say what final measures will be taken to tackle this problem.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Sir, the Minister's reply is really frustrating. The Minister should have been specific- while answering this question. For the last 90 years Jharia Coalmines are under fire and many other coalmines in Bihar are under fire. A lot of national wealth is being

ted like thi?. Even today alter three quarters of a century has passed, the Minister says they are looking for a new technology to control this lire. This is absolutely*

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: -*is un-parliamentary.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: It is not unparliamentary. O.K. 1 withdraw that word. I say, lack of sense.

There is an organisation called the Directorate of Mines Safety. I would like to know what that directorate is doing. It is under his control, becuse he also holds the Labour portfolio.

SHRI P.A. SINGMA: Yes, Sir. It is under my control, but under a different capacity. Now, I am answering the question as Coal Ministei You put me a question concerning coal. I will aaswer that.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: You cannot get away like that. You are holding both the portfolios.

SHRI P.A. SINGMA: I have stated a little while ago that as far as the details of Jharia Coalmines are concerned, I have the details with me. I do not have details about mines all over India. But the main problem is relating to underground fires in Jharia area for which I have got details and ths hon. Member has referred to that. It is not that we have done nothing. We have done our best to control the fire.

Bui what I have stated is that we have not been able to achieve the desired remits. To that extent we have failed. Therefore, we are going in for a new technology. We are in search of financial resources. Therefore we are in touch with the World Bank as far as funds are concerned.

Now, I come to details. It is true the first rime when underground fire was noticed dates back to 1916. The numl mines where the fires have been detected is 42. The active fires exist ia 30 locations covering an area of 17.32 square kilometers and coal damaged as of today is to the tune of 37 million tonnes. In money terns over Rs. L000 crores worth of coal has already been damaged. It is a colossal loss which has been caused to the country. Therefore, the coal has to be protected from the fire. Everyone concerned and the House should know coal to the tune of 1868 million tonnes is ia danger. We are not iii a position to take effective steps to control the fire either to stop it completely or to extinguish it. 1 1 you it is idl coking coal and we are importing over six Million tonnes of this coal every year. 1868 million tonnes of coal is in danger.

♦Not recorded.

In money value term it will be in the range of Rs. 49 to 42,000 crores.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : That too coking coal.

SHRI P. A. SINGMA : So far we are aware of the gravity of the situation. That is the reason why we went out of the way to send out a team to various countries to study how they are controlling the fire.

Tlie feasibility study is going on under tht World Bank project assistance. As I said earlier and I want to repeat, fay the middle of next year we hope that the study will be completed and we will be able to come and inform the house as to what final plan of action will be taken.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय कोल माइनिंग के बारे में सरकार बहुत गलत नीति अख्तियार कर रही है । कोयले का यह कायदा है कि नई जो खदान खोदी जाती है तो उसमें प्राफिट होता है और जब वह बहुत गहरी हो जाती है तब उसमें लास होता है । गवर्नमेंट क्या कर रही है कि नया-नया माइंस जो है वह प्राइवेट सेक्टर को या मल्टी नेशनल्स को दे रही है और जितनी लास वाली माईंस हैं, वह अपने पास रखे हुये है, जिनमें बहुत डीप माइनिंग होती है । यह बिल्कुल ही गलत रास्ता अख्तियार किये हुये है ।

दूसरे, इन्होंने कहा है कि सारा काम टैक्निकल है, इन्होंने अपनी रिपोर्ट में भी कहा है और अभी बताया भी है । अब सुन रहे हैं कि नॉन टैक्निकल आदमी को चेयरमैन बनाने के लिये आप तैयार हैं । अगर इतना कंप्लीकेटिड मैटर है तो वह क्यों? लेकिन मेरा स्पेसिफिक प्रश्न यह है.. **(व्यवधान)** . . . .

एक माननीय सदस्य : पार्ट वन ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : तो पार्ट वन ही कह देता हूं, पार्ट वन यह है कि जो कुछ अभी आंध्र और कर्नाटक में हुआ है, उसको देखते हुये अभी भी सरकार मल्टी नेशनल्स पर सती होने के लिये जा रही है या कोई दूसरा रास्ता अख्तियार कर रही है ?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: cir, the hon. Member is hundred per cent correct.

श्री जगेश्वर सिंह : सती होने जा रही है, करेक्ट है ?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: No. Regarding his first, pait of the question, it is true that the old mines are giving us losses and the new mines are giving us profits. That speaks about the technology that we are applying. All these mines are' underground mines. Sir, for the last 20 years we were stuck at around 60 million tonnes of coal production in the underground mines. Seventy-five per cent of our work force are engaged in the underground mines. They are producing 30 per cent of the total coal in Coal India because they are underground mines. We have been using old technologies. But now we are introducing a new technology like Longwal technology. There is a place called Kottadih where we have introduced new Longwal technology which has given us good results. Before that it was producing 800 tonnes of coal per day. Today, with the introduction of new technology, the same underground mine is giving us 6,800 tonnes of coal per day. Therefore, we are making some progress. We were stuck up at 60 million tonnes of coal production for the last 20 years. We had to go in for more open cast mines because the need of coal was greater in the country. Now we are trying to co-correct that.

SHRI CHATURANAN MIS-RA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question has not been answered. I did. not ask the Minister anything about the open cast mine. What I sail was that when the Government opens a new mine, it gives them profit, but when it is an old mine, it gives

them loss because the law of diminishing returns is fully applicable in coal-mines. The Minister knows about it very well. Now the Government is giving new mines to the private sector and to the multinationals which are profit-bearing areas; and they are confining themselves to the old mines which are giving them losses where the law of diminishing returns is applicable. Jttai was my first question He aid noi reply to it.

Ihe second question was, you

tecbmcal. Then, we are hearing
s Chairman of
»il P*1 lndia Ltd' That question also has not been replied.

The Third question was in spite ot the election results shown in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka!
sal san tor multi nationals or not » iftese -were my questions.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : As far
' ?nriT\of multi-nationals u concerned, l have already answered it m the previous question. AS i said earner, the policy of the Government is very clear, l do not ^ ant to repeat all that.

Coming to the question of giving
wf only new mines to
lffort ! ^ nnot artora to give the old mines to the
private sector because that would
the workers ana trie trade union leaders in the country, including Mr. Mishra.
Ihie position taken by the workers and the trade Unions
Mbung public seclor sll0uld no oe given to the private sector u you. want me to give the old mines io to pnvate sector, okay, we can wscussit. If you agree, I can do that. But that io not your case, yourc&se is that the existing public sector should not be handed over to the private sector. I agree with that. I stick to that. *(Interruption)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I want both the old and the new ones fcr the Government.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I ara going by the desire of the trade union leaders in this country that the existing public sector should not be privatised and I have made a commitment on the floor of the House and outside that tlie existing public sector mines of the Coal India shall not be handed over to the private sector and I stick to that. If you want to change it, okay, I
can change it. Therefore ..... *(Interruption).*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, he has put a question to me. Will you allow me to answer that ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is answering your question *(Intrrup-tion).* He is answering one by one.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : He has put a question to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Part (a) of your question, he is answering .

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : He has said, "If you agree..". I may tell him that I am of the opinion that if we run the old mines along with the new ones, then, as a whole, we will be getting profits. But, if you give old mines exclusively to the Government, then surely, loss will be there. My case is quite different. I am afraid you have misunderstood that.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, if we have to give mines to the private sector, we have to, give the new areas. We cannot give the old mines. That is the position of the Government. And we give to the extent it

is required. This position has been explained on the floor of the House when the House was discussing the Coal Nationalisation Act and I do not want to repeat that.

As for the question of selecting the Chairman, whether he should be technical or non-technical, a list of eligible candidates is sent to the Public Enterprises Selection Board. And it is the Public Enterprises Selection Board which interviews the candidates and gives the results. We have to go by the results of selection given by the Public Enterprises Selection Board which is an autonomous body. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Ho. 62. .

Amfcudment in the Laboui Laws

*62 MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister oi LABOUR be pleastd to state :

(a) whether the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry has suggested that Government should have a fresh look at the existing labour laws as special provisions have now become outdated as per the report in 'The Hindustan Times' captioned: "Saboo for changes in Labour Laws" dated 20th Novem. ber, 1994;

(b) if so, what are the facts thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Government is aware of the Report that apeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 20th October, 1994 under the Caption 3d; oo for Changes in Labour i a ". However, no formal com-muracation has been received from the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce and industry in thii regard.

(D) According to the report, Shri R.K. Saboo, th*; newly elected President of PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry had favoured a fresh look at the existing Labour Laws as several provisions have now become outdated.

(c) The existing Labom Laws are constantly reviewed in favour Tripartite/Bipartite Fora and based on the recommendations of these bodies, amendments to various labour laws are made, whenever, and wherever considered necessary

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE

Mi. Chairman, Sir, I have gone through the statement laid on the Table of the House by the hon. Minister. The answer to tlie question is a great disappointmet. At the outset, the question is with reference to "The Hindustan Times.' dated October 20, 1994 and not November 20, 1994, as wrongly mentioned in the question today.

Sir, the newly elected President of the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Shri R. K. Saboo, has suggested a fresh look at the existing labour laws of the country because the basic thrust of the labour laws now should be to encourage productivity and efficiency, if the Indian industry has to be globally competitive. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any proposal to amend.the existing labour laws with a view to make Indiun labour productive and